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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

As a software professional and someone who tries to not use Microsoft products, my preferred solution to the problem of Microsoft's monopoly would be to require them to provide equal access for everyone to all the file and message formats for all of its software, including Office files multimedia files, client and server network messages, and any other format used for data which is stored by any Microsoft software, or sent or received by any Microsoft software, now and in the future.

Furthermore, they would need to be required to provide that information at least a couple of months \_before\_ they release the software which uses the formats; otherwise they will continue to do what they have done in the past, which is keep changing the formats as often as possible and then releasing an "updated" version of their software which knows the new format before the previous format had been reverse engineered by the people trying to write compatible software.

This solution allows people to write software which interoperates with Microsoft software, but offers a better value than Microsoft software. Microsoft has prevented this from happening in the past: not allowing people to interoperate with their software, thus retaining their monopoly and precluding competition.

Larry